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## Message from Complete Florida

Hello! We are delighted to announce that during the 2019-2020 academic year, five more institutions will join Complete Florida. All of our partners develop talent pipelines and strengthen the workforce by offering affordable, accessible and accelerated options for adults to finish post-secondary credentials and degrees. We are excited to welcome:

- Seminole State College
- Saint Leo University
- Broward College
- Lynn University
- Florida Atlantic University

The addition of these schools brings the total of Complete Florida's online programs to more than 200. With these opportunities, our busy adult students have the flexibility to finish school while also juggling numerous personal and professional obligations. They fulfill their educational dreams, set examples for their children and become qualified for jobs in high-demand industry clusters. By finishing what they started and continuing lifelong learning, Complete Florida students secure their families' futures and the economic stability of our state. We look forward to the opportunity to reach more students through increased partnerships and collaboration.

Sincerely,

*Michelle Horton, Ed.D.*

*Director of Complete Florida*

## Save the Date:

### Help Adults Find the Finish Line

What does it take to get adults with some college credit but no degree to re-enroll and finish what they started? How can we help returning adults, who juggle so many demands, add schoolwork to the mix? Complete Florida coaches provide one-on-one support to returning adults — from initial interest through graduation. They meet the unique needs of these non-traditional students and have helped more than 1,000 students graduate. Join them for an information-sharing session at 11 a.m. EST Sept. 24 during Complete Florida's next virtual meeting of the Networking Group. Coaches want to share ideas, answer questions and glean suggestions from you as we collaborate to raise attainment rates. To find out more information about the Complete Florida Networking Group, and to discover past conversations, visit us online at [CompleteFlorida.org/Networking-Group](http://CompleteFlorida.org/Networking-Group).

[REGISTER TODAY](#)



## Student Spotlight: Navy Federal Support Employee's Effort to Finish His Degree

Michael, 41, lives in Pensacola with his wife and two children, ages 8 and 5. He works on the collections team at Navy Federal Credit Union. He also attends school online

at Hodges University and is earning a degree in interdisciplinary studies.

After chatting with a Complete Florida coach, Matt Smith, Michael decided to return to school. Matt was at Navy Federal for an education fair to promote Complete Florida services. Complete Florida partners with businesses to provide on-site coaching services because so many potential students manage crammed schedules. Michael and a co-worker stopped by the booth during lunch.

"We meet students where they are, which is often at work," Matt said. "We have to do this because they are so busy, it's hard for them to fit in one more thing, even if it's a quick meeting."

Though Michael was enthusiastic about returning to college, he was leery about the process of coordinating transcripts from three different institutions documenting more than 70 credits earned about two decades ago. He was also unsure about how to navigate the admissions process to make the most of those credits.

"Talking to Matt was definitely the deciding factor," Michael said. "He answered every question, and then we started emailing back and forth to get everything in order."

When Michael started classes again last summer, he decided to try one course to test how it would fit into his schedule.

"It did seem like a lot at first," Michael said. "I read the syllabus about the course expectations and asked a lot of questions. After just about two weeks, everything became second nature. You get into a routine. Now I am taking three classes at a time and am going to graduate in three semesters."

Michael had more than a decade of experience in the financial sector before joining Navy Federal in June 2017 as an overdrawn account counselor. He moved to a position in accounts receivables and then to as assistant supervisor for overdrawn accounts. In July, he received a promotion to supervisor for early-stage collections.

"I am excited about all the possibilities for the future, and I feel very fortunate that my employer has such good benefits, including tuition assistance, which is a huge help," Michael said. "Continuing my education was something I made a point to bring up in my interview. It shows I'm intent on preparing myself for the added responsibility. Going back to school has created a sense of pride and confidence that I'm already able to draw from."



## Lab Techs Pursue a 4-year Degree Online

The bachelor's degree in clinical laboratory sciences

at the University of West Florida called the medical lab technician to medical lab scientist, or MLT to MLS, program continues to thrive.

Professionals with an MLT associate began applying to work on their four-year MLS program during August of 2018. The 100 percent online program is the first of its kind in the state.

"Though they do similar work in hospitals, MLTs have to work supervised, whereas an MLS does not," said Katie Cavnar, chair of the department of medical laboratory sciences at UWF. "Going on to get your MLS is beneficial for a couple of reasons, including an increase in pay and an increase in responsibility, which may allow for a promotion in the laboratory."

Because of a recent articulation agreement between Florida State College at Jacksonville and UWF, students now have a smoother transition from a two-year to a four-year degree. FSCJ students can complete their associate requirements for an MLT in Jacksonville and finish their MLS online at UWF.

Many people were involved in creating this new opportunity. Cavnar along with Katie Condon, executive director of undergraduate admissions at UWF; Sharon Bell, assistant director of the transfer student center; and Kristina Behan, medical laboratory sciences professor, worked with the FSCJ team. It included Julie Stein, articulation coordinator, Nancy Webster, executive director of articulation and dual enrollment, and Monica Franklin, instructional program manager.

All students in the MLT to MLS program will have the opportunity to fulfill an organic chemistry requirement online, starting in Spring 2020. This will be possible thanks to the efforts of professors Michael Huggins and Alan Schrock in the chemistry department and the support of Karen Molek, chemistry department chairman and Jaromy Kuhl, dean of the Hal Marcus College of Science and Engineering.

For more information about the MLT to MLS program or to apply, visit [uwf.edu/mls](http://uwf.edu/mls) and select the MLT to MLS Track tab.

## What We're Reading

- [Some Credits, No College Degree: Paving a Pathway to Graduation](#)
- [People and Career Management: Closing the Gap on Immediate IT Hiring Needs](#)

## Who Are We?

Complete Florida is a high-tech, low-hassle, online program for busy adults to finish their college degree and land their dream job. We provide free concierge coaching services for students returning to college.

[CompleteFlorida.org](http://CompleteFlorida.org)

## By the Numbers

**20** Partner schools

**200+** Degree programs

**11,405** Students

working with a Complete Florida Coach

**\$1.6 million**

Awarded in scholarships from Complete Florida

**1,754** Graduates

Who are we?



## Finding and Using OER Materials

Did you miss Complete Florida's webinar on finding and using OER? Click on the video to hear from Rebel Cummings-Saul, director of digital services and open education resources at the [Florida Academic Library Services Cooperative](#). She talks about [OPEN FL](#), possibilities for collaboration and updates on OER across the state.

## Find Us on Social Media



## What Students are Saying

*"I feel that by getting my four-year degree, I can build on my experience and leadership ability to put myself in a better place where I am employed."*

Allen

Polk State College

*"My budget is limited, and the Complete Florida scholarship helps cover the cost of books and tuition and takes a lot of stress off me, allowing me to focus on school without having to worry."*

Kela

Florida International University

*"This bachelor's degree is vital to achieve a better career and job for a successful life, and Complete Florida has been there for me every step of the way."*

Aaron

Hodges University

*"I am a mother of two children, and my dream is to obtain a degree in psychology to teach my children it is never too late to reach a goal."*

Diana

Miami Dade College

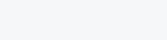
*"I believe this degree in early childhood education will provide me with more insight and make me a better teacher."*

Michelle

St. Petersburg College

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321 N De Villiers Street, Suite 308  
Pensacola, FL | 32501 United States

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